

Rancho La Costa Preserve & Villages of La Costa Trails



Driving Directions

Horned Lizard Trail and Switchbacks Trail

I-5 to La Costa Ave. Exit La Costa Ave east to Rancho Sante Fe Rd. Left (north) on Rancho Sante Fe Rd. to Camino Junipero. Right on Camino Junipero, continue about ½ mile, trail head is on the left, (east) side of Camino Junipero. Parking is available on side streets east of Camino Junipero including Corte Romero and Sitio Salvia.

Bobcat Trail

Directions: Same as to Cadencia Park
I-5 to La Costa Ave. Exit La Costa Ave east to Cadencia Ave. Left on Cadencia to Cadencia Park, about 1.5 miles. Parking is available on Cadencia St. The trail head is located near the north east corner of the park. The trail can also be accessed off of Old Rancho Sante Fe Rd. Trail located behind Fire Station 6.

Trails

1 Ridgeline Trail

Length: 1.5 miles | Difficulty: Difficult | Surface: Unpaved, rocky

The trail is aptly named after a long ridgeline that overlooks the Box Canyon area of La Costa. Partially located on an SDG&E utility and access road, and partially on steep, rocky single-track trails, this is one of the city's most difficult and longest trails, with rocky climbs and large expanses of native coastal sage scrub.

2 East Ridgeline Trail

Length: 1 mile | Difficulty: Difficult | Surface: Steep, hilly

Native chaparral covers hillsides along steep ridgeline hike that provides commanding views of the Batiquitos Lagoon and steep canyon walls of Box Canyon. Note: Hiking off of the trail and into Box Canyon and the falls are off limits to the public.

3 Bobcat Trail

Length: .5 miles | Difficulty: Easy | Surface: level to low hills

Located within the Rancho La Costa Preserve next to Cadencia Park, the trail winds through upland coastal sage scrub on a high mesa that overlooks the Batiquitos Lagoon and Box Canyon to the west.

4 Old Rancho Sante Fe Rd. Trail

Length: 1.5 miles | Difficulty: Easy | Surface: Flat

This trail connects older La Costa neighborhoods with newer communities of The Oaks. The north end of the trail at Fire Station 6 has a seating area.

5 Denk Tank Peak Trails (Denning Road Trail)

Length: 3 miles | Difficulty: Difficult | Surface: Steep, hilly

A series of single track narrow trails wind through coastal sage hillsides, offering a scenic overlook from Carlsbad's highest point.

6 Horned Lizard Trail and Switchbacks Trail

Length: 5 miles | Difficulty: Difficult | Surface: Steep, hilly

This steep single track trail winds through coastal sage scrub and large native California wildflower vegetation, offering commanding views of San Marcos, Olivenhain, and Carlsbad to the Pacific Ocean. The trail connects to the Denk Tank Peak trail.

Rancho La Costa Preserve



The preserve ranges from El Camino Real to Elfin Forest. The preserve is broken into many parcels, and is close to 1,500 acres and serves as a regional corridor connecting Batiquitos Lagoon and Lake Hodges. The vegetation is representative of the high diversity of coastal San Diego County's natural habitats.

Volunteer Opportunities & Adopt-a-Trail

Join the many dedicated citizens who care deeply about Citywide Trails. Citywide Trail Volunteers are critical for preserving, maintaining, protecting, developing, and operating trails in Carlsbad for public use. Volunteers meet on a quarterly basis. It's a great way to have fun, keep fit and learn about our unique environment — all while making a lasting contribution that will benefit the community for generations to come. If you would like to become a trail volunteer or to learn about the Adopt-A-Trail Program, please contact our Community Volunteer Coordinator (Sue Irey) at 760-434-2906 or sign up at www.volunteerincarlsbad.net.

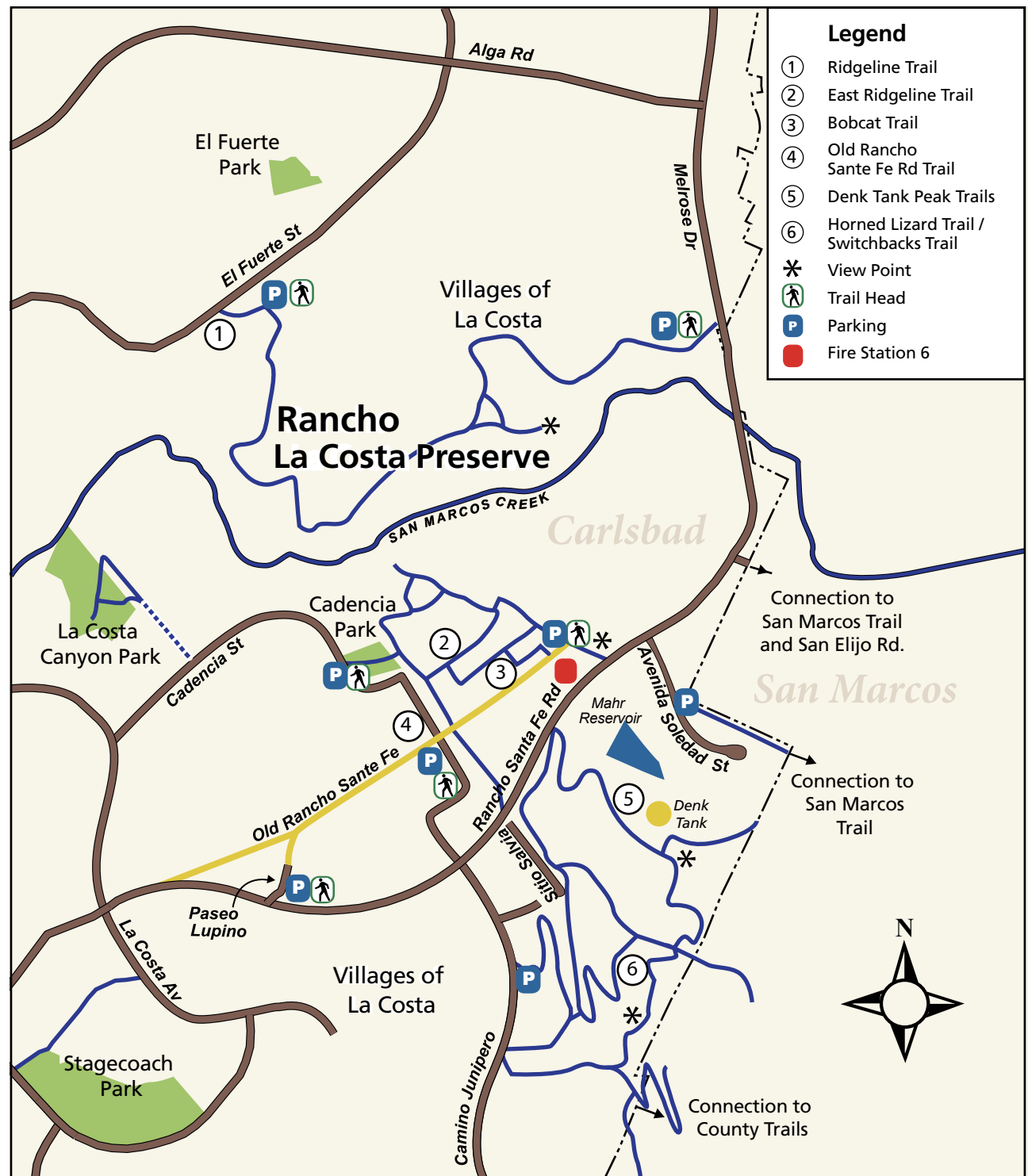
Visit www.carlsbadca.gov/trails for complete information on the Citywide Trails Program.

Trail Use Regulations

1. Stay on the designated trail. CPC 602
2. Put litter in containers provided. Do not leave or deposit any litter. CMC 11.32.030(1).
3. Pick up after your pet. CMC 7.08.010, SDCC 62.670.
4. All pets must be on a hand-held leash under 6' long. CMC Sec. 7.08.010, SDCC Sec. 62.669.
5. Bicycle riders 17 years and younger must wear a helmet. CVC 21212.
6. Bicycles should be driven at safe speeds considering all other trail users.
7. Ride or walk on right side when traffic is coming from the opposite direction or when someone signals they would like to pass.
8. Motorized vehicles and horses are not allowed on this trail. (CMC Secs. 11.32.030(11), 11.32.030(19).
9. No smoking, fires or firearms. CMC Secs. 11.32.030(2), 11.32.030(4), 11.32.110.
10. Report accidents or emergencies to the Police Department (Dial 911).
11. Report trails maintenance problems or vandalism to the Parks Maintenance division at 760-434-2824.
12. Non-emergencies or violations of the above rules and regulations, call 24-hour police dispatch, 760-931-2197.

Important Phone Numbers

POLICE & FIRE (Emergencies Only)	911
24-HOUR NON-EMERGENCY	760-931-2197
PARKS DIVISION (Trail Maintenance)	760-434-2824
GRAFFITI REMOVAL	760-434-6700
PARKS & RECREATION ADMIN	760-434-2826
WILDLIFE ASSISTANCE	619-921-6044
THE CENTER FOR NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT	760-731-7790



Interactive map available at www.carlsbadca.gov/trails